

IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR THE IMPORTATION INTO NEW ZEALAND OF SHELF- STABLE PETFOODS CONTAINING ANIMAL PRODUCTS

Issued pursuant to Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993

Dated: 6 June 2003

USER GUIDE

The information in MAF animal and animal product import health standards is presented in numerically ordered sections with descriptive titles. Sections are grouped into one of four parts, designated alphabetically.

Part A. GENERAL INFORMATION contains sections of general interest, including those relating to the legal basis for MAF import health standards and the general responsibilities of every importer of animals and animal products.

Part B. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE contains sections which outline the requirements to be met prior to and during importation. Whether a permit to import is required to be obtained prior to importation is noted, as are conditions of eligibility, transport and general conditions relating to documentation accompanying the consignment.

Part C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE contains sections describing the requirements to be met at the New Zealand border and, if necessary, in a transitional facility in New Zealand prior to any consignment being given biosecurity clearance.

PART A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1 IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD

- 1.1 Pursuant to section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, this document is the import health standard for the importation into New Zealand of shelf-stable petfoods containing animal products.
- 1.2 Obtaining biosecurity clearance for each consignment of shelf-stable petfoods containing animal products imported into New Zealand is dependant upon the consignment meeting the requirements of this import health standard.
- 1.3 This import health standard may be reviewed, amended or revoked if there are changes in New Zealand's import policy or the animal health status of the originating country, or for any other lawful reason, at the discretion of the Director Animal Biosecurity.

2 IMPORTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 The costs of MAF in performing functions relating to the importation of shelf-stable petfoods containing animal products shall be recovered in accordance with the Biosecurity Act and any regulations made under that Act.
- 2.2 All costs involved with documentation, transport, storage and obtaining a biosecurity direction and/or biosecurity clearance shall be borne by the importer or agent.
- 2.3 Please note that this import health standard refers to petfoods containing animal ingredients only. Importers must ensure that petfoods containing plant ingredients (e.g. birdseed) also comply with import requirements for plant products.
- 2.4 Please note that the Customs Import Prohibition (Trout) Order 1998, administered by the New Zealand Customs Service, prohibits the importation of trout and trout products in quantities exceeding 10 kilograms, or in quantities of less than 10 kilograms if the goods are intended for sale except with the consent of, and subject to such conditions as may be imposed by the Minister of Conservation. Any consignment may be subject to inspection by an authorised person under the Customs and Excise Act 1996.

3 DEFINITION OF TERMS

Animal Products

This refers to meat, fish, dairy and egg ingredients. Petfoods containing honey may be imported under clause 8.8 of this import health standard.

Biosecurity Clearance

As defined by the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Bovine material

This refers to all parts of bovine animals and products derived from them (e.g. meat and bone meal) with the exception of dairy products.

Commercial Consignment

Refers to petfoods arriving in New Zealand intended for sale to the New Zealand public. Small quantities (i.e. approximately 20 kg or less) of petfoods imported for private use or trade samples imported for evaluation are not considered to be commercial consignments.

Cooked

Refers to products which have been raised to a core temperature recognised as sufficient to render the product commercially sterile.

Director Animal Biosecurity

The Director Animal Biosecurity, New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, or any person who for the time being may lawfully exercise and perform the power and functions of the Director Animal Biosecurity.

Equivalence

Acceptance by the Director Animal Biosecurity that the circumstances relating to the importation of a consignment are such that the health status of the consignment is equivalent to the health status of a consignment that complies with the requirements of the import health standard.

European Community

Includes Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Inspector

As defined by the Biosecurity Act 1993.

MAF

The New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Petfoods

Refers to foods intended for direct consumption by pet animal species. Pet animal species are considered to be dogs, cats, aviary birds, zoo birds and zoo animals, rabbits, ferrets, rats, mice etc. Products intended to be fed to production animal species including poultry, ostriches, emus, cattle, sheep, deer, goats, pigs, horses etc. may not be imported under this import health standard.

Sealed Packaging

The packaging is impervious and sealed at the point of manufacture. The original packaging must be intact (i.e. has not been opened) and tamper-proof. Any material is suitable for packaging unless specified otherwise. Examples include screw-top glass or plastic containers with tamper-proof seals, sealed foil retort pouches, vacuum packed and heat-sealed plastic wrap or containers, cans, sewn multi-wall bags, sealed cardboard boxes.

Shelf-stable

Means that the products are not required to be kept under refrigeration. This only refers to products while they are sealed, and does not apply to products with instructions stating that the product must be refrigerated after opening.

4 EQUIVALENCE

- 4.1 It is expected that the animal product will meet the conditions of this import health standard in every respect. If the products do not comply with the requirements, an application for equivalence may be submitted to MAF for consideration. Detailed information supporting the application for equivalence must be forwarded to MAF for a decision.

PART B. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE

5. PERMIT TO IMPORT

- 5.1 Importations of shelf-stable petfoods containing animal products into New Zealand from all countries which meet the requirements of this import health standard may, subject to sections 27 and 28 of the Biosecurity Act, be given biosecurity clearance and do not require a biosecurity direction to a transitional facility. As such, they do not require a permit to import.

6. INFORMATION TO BE SUPPLIED BY IMPORTER

- 6.1 For commercial consignments, the importer shall supply the following information:
- i. name and address of exporter,
 - ii. name and address of manufacturer,
 - iii. description and type of product.

7 DOCUMENTATION ACCOMPANYING THE CONSIGNMENT

- 7.1 For commercial consignments: a copy of the import health standard and all the required information and certification, which must be in English or a bilingual (language of country of origin/English) form, must be presented by the importer when requesting clearance for the consignment to enter New Zealand.

8 ELIGIBILITY

- 8.1 *Petfoods and petfood ingredients (i.e. ingredients for incorporating into petfoods) that do not contain animal products* may be imported under this import health standard from *any country*.

(NB 1: petfoods and petfood ingredients of plant origin must comply with existing import health standards for plant products. The importation of plant products is outside the scope of this import health standard.)

- 8.2 *Cooked petfoods* may be imported from any country^{NB: 2} provided that the following requirements are met:
- i. The product shall be commercially packaged and labelled as petfood.
 - ii. The product shall be cooked.
 - iii. The product shall be sealed within cans, glass, foil, plastic or retort pouches.
 - iv. The product shall be within its original packaging on arrival.

- v. The product shall be shelf-stable.

(NB 2: cooked petfoods containing bovine material (see definition page 2) from Canada, the Czech Republic, European Community, Japan, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland Israel and Poland may not be imported under clause 8.2. These products are covered by separate import health standards PETBOVIC.SPE and PETBOVIC.EEC.)

- 8.3 *Dry dog and cat petfoods.* This includes products such as dog and cat biscuits, pellets, chew sticks etc. These products may be imported from any country^{NB: 3} provided that the following requirements are met:

- i. The product shall be commercially packaged and labelled as petfood.
- ii. The product shall be cooked.
- iii. The product shall be sealed within its original packaging on arrival.
- iv. The product shall be shelf-stable.

(NB 3: dry dog and cat petfoods containing bovine material (see definition page 2) from Canada, the Czech Republic, European Community, Japan, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Israel and Poland may not be imported under clause 8.3. These products are covered by separate import health standards PETBOVIC.SPE and PETBOVIC.EEC.)

- 8.4 *Dried dog and cat chews.* This includes rawhide chews (dehaired), dried pigs ears and pig snouts etc.

- 8.4.1 These products may be imported from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden and the United States provided that the following requirements are met:

- i. The country of origin shall be identifiable from the packaging.
- ii. The product shall be commercially packaged and labelled as petfood.
- iii. The product shall be sealed within its original packaging on arrival.
- iv. The product shall be shelf-stable.

- 8.4.2 Rawhide (dehaired) dog chews may be imported from *countries other than those listed in clause 8.4.1 above* provided they are accompanied by a manufacturer's declaration stating that the product has been soaked in a lime solution of pH 14 for at least 8 hours. The manufacturer's declaration must be endorsed by an official government veterinarian of the country of origin.

(NB 4: dried avian meat or skin products may NOT be imported under clause 8.4.)

- 8.5 *Dried dog and cat chews of bovine origin (except for rawhide).* This includes ligamentum nuchae chews, beef jerky chews etc. These products may be imported from Australia and the United States provided that the following requirements are met:

- i. The country of origin shall be identifiable from the packaging.
- ii. The product shall be commercially packaged and labelled as petfood.
- iii. The product shall be sealed within its original packaging on arrival.
- iv. The product shall be shelf-stable.

8.6 *Dried sardines* may be imported from *any country* provided that the following requirements are met:

- i. The product shall be commercially packaged and labelled as petfood.
- ii. The product shall be sealed within its original packaging on arrival.
- iii. The product shall be shelf-stable.

8.7 *Dried pelleted petfoods for pets other than cats and dogs* (i.e. pelleted foods for rabbits, mice, aviary birds etc.) may be imported from any country^{NB: 5} provided that the following requirements are met:

- i. The product shall be in the form of extruded, dry pellets.
- ii. The product shall be commercially packaged and labelled as petfood.
- iii. The product shall be sealed within its original packaging on arrival.
- iv. The product shall be shelf-stable.

(NB 5: dried pelleted petfoods containing bovine material (see definition page 2) from Canada, the Czech Republic, European Community, Japan, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Israel and Poland may not be imported under clause 8.7. These products are covered by separate import health standards PETBOVIC.SPE and PETBOVIC.EEC.)

(NB 6: dried pelleted petfoods containing ingredients of plant origin must comply with existing import health standards for plant products. The importation of plant products is outside the scope of this import health standard.)

8.8 *Consignments of petfoods which contain less than 5% of each animal ingredient* (i.e. products which contain 5% or less of meat, 5% or less of fish, 5% or less of dairy ingredients, 5% or less of egg ingredients). These products may be imported into New Zealand from any country provided the importer presents a letter to the Inspector which states that the product is not considered to be a risk good and may be given a Biosecurity Clearance on arrival in New Zealand. The letter shall be issued by MAF Import Management and will be valid for 12 months from the date of issue.

(NB 7: petfoods containing ingredients of plant origin must comply with existing import health standards for plant products. The importation of plant products is outside the scope of this import health standard.)

8.9 *Petfoods containing honey as an ingredient* may be imported from *any country* provided the importer presents certification to the effect that:

- i. EITHER, the honey has been subjected to a heat treatment of 60°C for at least 8 hours or 80°C for at least 1 hour; OR
- ii. the honey is derived from a country or region free from European foulbrood caused by *Melissococcus pluton*; OR
- iii. the petfood contains 2% or less of honey **and** the petfood has been cooked or subject to a heat extrusion process during manufacture.

(NB 8: petfoods containing ingredients of plant origin must comply with existing import health standards for plant products. The importation of plant products is outside the scope of this import health standard.)

- 8.10 The following feed additives for ornamental birds may be imported provided that the products are commercially packaged and sealed within the original packaging:
- i. Dr Walkers Grit - blend of hard and soft grits
 - ii. Dr Walkers picking stone - blend of grits in clay matrix

PART C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE

9 BIOSECURITY CLEARANCE

- 9.1 Upon arrival in New Zealand, the consignment or a sample of the consignment may be inspected by an Inspector at the port of arrival.
- 9.2 Providing that any documentation is in order and the consignment meets the conditions of ELIGIBILITY, the consignment may, subject to sections 27 and 28 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, be given a biosecurity clearance pursuant to section 26 of the Biosecurity Act 1993.